

EXPLORE!



Family Egyptian Adventure 10 days

Egypt - Trip code FNF

Family Egyptian Adventure

On this family holiday to Egypt we sail down the River Nile by felucca (a traditional sailing boat), ride camels through the desert and swim in the warm waters of the Red Sea. Join us as we bring history to life first hand, exploring one of the ancient civilizations of the world. Witness the wonders of the Great Pyramids of Giza, discover the Valley of the Kings, home to the famous tomb of Tutankhamun and wander the treasure-filled halls of Cairo's Egyptian Museum home to numerous world famous artefacts and treasures.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Cairo** - A full day exploring the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum
- ★ **Aswan** - Nubian Dinner; camel trek to St. Simeon's Monastery; optional visit to the temples at Abu Simbel
- ★ **Aswan to Kom Ombo** - 2 days felucca sail trek along the Nile River
- ★ **Luxor** - Tour of Karnak with transfer by 'calesh'; Valley of the Kings and Hatshepsut Temple
- ★ **Safaga** - Full day boat trip and snorkelling in the Red Sea

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:**Moderate**

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:**14 - 20**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join tour Cairo

Arrive in Cairo and check-in at the hotel. Cairo is a vibrant, exhilarating, fascinating and welcoming city. Home to the best Pharaonic, Coptic and Islamic sites in Egypt, this city is where you never know what incredible, half-forgotten monument you might stumble across while wandering around. If you arrive early you may wish to catch your first glimpse of the mighty Nile River, visit the capital's medieval market at Khan el Khalili or walk down the Nile promenade. There are also plenty of cinemas, theatres and modern malls.



Accommodation: Pyramid Park Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - In Cairo; visit the Pyramids, Sphinx and Egyptian Museum; overnight train to Aswan

Africa's largest capital, Cairo, is situated mainly on the east bank of the Nile. This morning we drive to Giza, to visit one of the seven ancient wonders of the world, the Pyramids, among the most impressive man-made spectacles in the world. Here, you can opt to venture inside a pyramid or admire the Solar Boat, designed to transport the Pharaoh's soul to the afterlife. The complex includes the Sphinx, a crouching lion with a human head carved from solid rock and the splendid Granite Temple. In the afternoon, we visit the Egyptian Museum, which amongst its 100,000 artefacts contains the extraordinary treasures of Tutankhamun, complete with his Golden Mask. You may also have an opportunity to visit the Children's Museum at the Egyptian Museum where you can try your hand at building your own Pyramid! Later this evening we will transfer to the station to catch the overnight sleeper train to Aswan. The compartments contain three seats that face in the same direction which convert into one of the beds. The other bed pulls down from the wall above the seats providing a bunk bed. The carriage steward sets this all up and provides bed linen, blankets and pillows. Each bed has a night light and a cupboard that houses a small sink, shelf, mirror, towel and power socket plus there is a removable table top that folds into the wall. Dinner and breakfast are provided by the carriage steward who delivers the meals to your compartment. Two western style toilets are located at the end of each carriage and there are a communal lounge carriage with a bar that serves soft drinks.



Accommodation: Overnight Train: Cairo to Aswan



Standard Overnight Train



Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 3 - Arrive in Aswan, free afternoon and Nubian dinner

We arrive mid morning in Aswan, Egypt's most southerly city, traditionally regarded as the frontier post of Upper Egypt. Sited on the east bank, just below the First Cataract, it is the meeting point of Arab culture with Nubia and Black Africa. We transfer directly to our hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to relax and enjoy the hotel swimming pool watching life go by on the banks of the Nile. You may wish to explore the vibrant local bazaar just a short walk from our hotel. Packed full of exotic spices, leather goods and richly decorated crafts it's an ideal place to spend a couple of hours. This evening we have a traditional Nubian dinner at a local village with friends we at Explore have known for years - a highlight for parents and children alike. You may like to bring some small gifts for the children in the village such as notebooks and pencils.



Accommodation: Isis Corniche Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 4 - Optional visit to Abu Simbel, afternoon city walking tour

There is the option this morning to drive through the desert to the fabulous rock-hewn temple of Abu Simbel, a major highlight for many who visit Aswan. Cut into the rock face, this enormous structure was raised 61m to save it from being flooded by the artificial lake that was created by the building of the Aswan High Dam. The 20m high statues represent Ramses II, known as the Great Builder and one of the most powerful Pharaohs of the New Kingdom. For those choosing this option we will need to leave early (around 4.30), returning to Aswan around 13.30. For those not heading to Abu Simbel we have a free morning. In the afternoon we head out with our Explore leader to wander through the streets of this fascinating town and explore the excellent souq, reflecting the fusion between Arab and African cultures.



Accommodation: Isis Corniche Hotel (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 5 - Morning camel ride to St. Simon; embark on feluccas

After breakfast we transfer by launch to the west bank of the Nile where we meet our camel train, our very own 'ships of the desert' and head out to St Simeon's. One of the largest Coptic monasteries in Egypt, St Simeon's was built in the 7th century and finally abandoned in the 13th century. It now sits in splendid isolation at the end of a desert valley, an impressive sight, looking more like a desert fortress than a place of worship. On returning to Aswan we board our feluccas and set sail downstream, travelling through the timeless landscape of the Nile Valley, in the time honoured fashion of the ancient Egyptians themselves. As we sail we see the intensive cultivation of the Nile Valley and at intermittent points there are small villages that depend upon the river for their livelihood. As the golden colours of the late afternoon cast their glow over the land of the Pharaohs we will dock and set up camp beside the river bank. Sleeping on the deck of the feluccas, beneath a blanket of stars, we are rocked to sleep by the gentle waters of the Nile lapping against our boats.



Accommodation: Aboard Felucca (or similar)

 Simple Felucca

 Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 6 - Sail towards Kom Ombo; drive to Luxor; afternoon visit to Karnak

This morning we continue our journey down river, following the fertile green ribbon of the Nile Valley, as it winds through parched desert lands. Disembarking we transfer by road to the magnificent ruins of the Ptolemaic temple at Kom Ombo. The temple is unique in that it is dedicated to not one, but two gods: Horus, the falcon headed god and Sobek the crocodile god, a useful deity to have on your side given that this stretch of the river was inundated with crocodiles until the early years of the last century! We then transfer by bus to Luxor, site of the ancient city of Thebes, the city of a hundred gates and the sacred home of Amun-Re, the supreme god of the Pharaohs. In the afternoon we will enjoy our excursion to the stunning Temple of Karnak, by horse drawn calesh. Dating from around 2000 BC, the scale and grandeur of Karnak is amazing. It covers an area the size of 10 European cathedrals and the 134 pillars of its Hypostyle Hall are a wonder to behold.



Accommodation: Eatabe Luxor Hotel (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 7 - Visit to Hatshepsut Temple and the Valley of the Kings; afternoon free

This morning, we cross the Nile and travel by bus to the extraordinary Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Egypt's only female Pharaoh, who usurped the throne from her son, the future Tuthmoses III. The scale of the temple and its magnificent setting are breathtaking, but perhaps even more remarkable are the details; look out for the fine carving of the 'Expedition to the Land of Punt'. We then take a short bus ride to the Valley of the Kings' to explore some of the more important sites made famous in 1922 by the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. We visit three tombs. The afternoon is then free for you to enjoy your time by the pool, enjoy an (optional) donkey trek or wander through Luxor's bazaar.



Accommodation: Eatabe Luxor Hotel (or similar)

 Standard Hotel

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Drive to Safaga

Leaving the Nile Valley behind, we head east today, to the shores of the Red Sea. Crossing the barren mountains of the Eastern Desert we head for the small town of Safaga, where we will enjoy the delights of a marine wonderland in stark contrast to the desert scenery that surrounds it. There is time here to relax and enjoy the dazzling waters immediately outside our hotel.



Accommodation: Lotus Bay Hotel (or similar)

 Premium Hotel

 Swimming pool available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 9 - Full day boat trip on the Red Sea

With over 400 varieties of corals and 1500 species of fish, the Red Sea is a hard act for anyone to follow. There are reef fish of every shade and hue, living amongst the corals, and turtles, rays and small sharks abound in these rich waters. We include a full day's boat trip to the coral reefs around Safaga - it's just like swimming in a tropical fish tank! With a light lunch taken on-board, we will enjoy some leisurely hours swimming, snorkelling or just relaxing, before returning to our hotel for the evening.



Accommodation: Lotus Bay Hotel (or similar)



Premium Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Lunch

DAY 10 - Tour ends Safaga

Tour ends in Safaga after breakfast.



Meals Provided: Breakfast

Family information

TRIPLE ROOMS This trip allows the option for triple rooms to be included within the booking on a selected number of night stops within the holiday (excludes train and felluca). If you would like this option, a discount may be applicable on the cost of the trip - please ask our Sales team for further information.

Minimum age

7



Why book this trip

The adventure brings what the kids have learnt about Egypt at school to life with visits to the Pyramids, Sphinx and the Egyptian Museum where the famous Tutankhamun mask is housed. A great trip of discovery, this holiday is perfect for families who want to spend time on a traditional felucca sailing boat, be given the opportunity to snorkel in the Red Sea and discover ancient times and impressive monuments.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 9
Lunch: 2
Dinner: 3



Transport

Bus
Boat
Train



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Boat Crew
Driver(s)



Accommodation

1 nights simple felucca
3 nights premium hotel
4 nights standard hotel
1 nights standard overnight train

Trip information

Country information

Egypt Holidays & Tours

Climate

Egypt's climate is hot and dry, typical of a desert environment. In summer it can be very hot and remains hot overnight whereas winter days are milder by comparison and temperatures can drop considerably at night. The mildest area is along the Mediterranean coast with temperatures ranging from 23-31°C in summer and 10-17°C in winter. In the desert region temperatures fluctuate in summer dropping as low as 7°C at night and up to 40°C during the day and in winter it can vary from 0°C at night to 18°C in the day. Aswan is one of the hottest cities with Cairo and Alexandria generally slightly cooler. Egypt receives very little rainfall annually and rainfall in summer is very rare.

Time difference to GMT

+2

Plugs

2 Pin Round

Religion

Islamic, Christian

Language

Arabic

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

A selection of optional activities are listed below to help you budget for your Family adventure. Whilst the basic tour price you pay before you travel includes a great selection of highlights, we have also built in free time to allow you the flexibility to choose from a carefully selected range of additional excursions and activities or take time to relax, the choice is yours. At certain destinations along the way there may be several options to choose from and it may not be possible to fit all the activities in; your Explore Leader will be able to give advice on which are the most suitable for your family. Cairo: For those opting to join the tour earlier and extend your stay in Cairo there are two excursions to consider, Saqqara and Dashur Pyramids US\$48 per person and a half Day Islamic Cairo tour US\$32 per person. There isn't time to fit these in during the tour itself. Aswan: Day 3: Afternoon trip to visit the Philae Temple, unfinished obelisk and Aswan High Dam US\$50 per person Day 4: Excursion from Aswan to Abu Simbel by air with local guide US\$320 or by bus US\$95 per person Day 4: Evening Philae Sound and Light Show US\$30 per person Luxor: Day 7: Entry to Tutankhamun's Tomb US\$16 per person Day 7: Sound & Light at Karnak Temple US\$25 per person Day 7: Afternoon guided visit to Habu Temple and Deir al-Medina US\$45 per person alternatively a non-guided visit to Valley of the Queens US\$35 per person (there isn't enough time to do both excursions) Day 7: Extended calesh ride into the countryside including a visit to a local bazar (approx 1.5 hours) or a donkey ride on the west bank of the Nile US\$22 per person Please note that all optionals prices are in US Dollars, though local currency or US Dollars will be accepted. There may be a minimum requirement of passengers on certain optional excursions; your Explore leader will be able to advise.

Clothing

Egypt is a Muslim country and it is important to dress with respect for local customs. Brief shortskirts should be avoided in towns and you should cover your head when entering a mosque. In more traditional towns and market areas we advise women and older girls to wear long loose fitting trousers or skirts and have shoulders covered to avoid unwanted attention. Men should also be aware that shorts are not generally worn by Egyptians.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes or trainers for sightseeing and donkey/camel rides; plus sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

One main piece of luggage and a daysac. During the felucca journey, the main baggage is stowed away beneath deck, but is accessible twice a day.

Equipment

For use on the felucca sailtrek, a 2 season (temperature 0°C to 5°C) sleeping bag is necessary between April and October, 4 season for colder nights between December and February, and a 3 season (temperature -5°C to 0°C) for November and March. Please note that it is possible to hire a sleeping bag locally for the night on the felucca at a cost of £5.00. Also bring a water bottle, towel, insect repellent and a small torch. Mattresses are provided. There are no shower or toilet facilities on board, a toilet tent will be erected on the river bank. You may also want to bring wet wipes. Please note that on the donkey trek and the camel trek we cannot supply hard hats - if head protection is felt to be necessary please bring your own hat as these are not available to buy locally.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you

receive.

Local crew

Local Crew: Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly you should allow approx. £20 per person for gratuities for local staff.

Country Information

Egypt Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£6

Dinner price

£8

Beer price

£1.7

Water price

£0.75

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Egyptian Pound

Recommended Currency For Exchange

We recommend that you bring your money in cash, £GBP, US\$ or Euros which are readily changeable.

Where To Exchange

Most major towns - your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

You may also bring an ATM card, as these are available in main towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are rarely accepted.

Travellers Cheques

You may find it useful to bring some Travellers Cheques as a back up.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

Bus, Boat, Train

Family swimming

Most hotels have pools and we have the chance to swim in the Red Sea.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Egypt: An entry visa is required by all nationalities. UK citizens can obtain a visa on arrival at the airport for the current cost of 25USD. Please note, you must purchase a visa stamp at one of the nearby banks before proceeding to the immigration desk.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Non refundable permits**Egypt Holidays & Tours****Vaccinations**

Nothing compulsory but we recommend protection against typhoid, tetanus, infectious hepatitis and polio. Though malaria does exist in Egypt it is not normally found in the areas in which we travel. Please note that all travellers aged over 9 months old will be required to supply a yellow fever certificate if you have travelled from or have transited via a country with a risk of yellow fever transmission. For the most up to date advice please consult your travel clinic.
